

Forest Conservation Advisory Committee

Minutes

February 19, 2013

Prepared by: Bob Benson

ATTENDEES

Members

Bob Benson
Kim Knox
Brett Linkletter (DPWT), ex officio
Caren Madsen
Laura Miller (DEP), ex officio
David Myers
David Plummer (MSCD), ex officio
Jeff Schwartz
Doug Sievers (WSSC), ex officio
Linda Silversmith
Kevin Smith
Dan Snyder
Clark Wagner

Absent members

Ginny Barnes
Mark Buscaino
Andrew Der
David Kuykendall (DPS), ex officio
Dan Landry
Katherine Nelson, (M-NCPPC), ex officio
Jason Sheer

Others attending

Stan Edwards, DEP Staff

MINUTES

1. Kim Opened meeting 7:00 PM
2. Update on legislation: tree Canopy, Street Trees, and ongoing revisions, by Stan Edwards.
3. Overall vision of urban forest management plan. Reviewed vision statements of other jurisdictions: Fairfax, Charlottesville, and Pittsburgh.
4. Collective Vision Statement:

- A. Every community would have tree-lined streets through every country.
 - B. The county has a comprehensive plan for future generations to enjoy a health forest.
 - C. Advance the quality and quantity of the urban forest in Montgomery County.
 - D. We will maintain a healthy urban forest where citizens can experience the natural world.
 - E. Our healthy forest is well-distributed throughout the county.
 - F. Great distribution of species and age classes.
 - G. We will appreciate the value of trees in our lives.
 - H. Recognition of trees complimenting our quality of life.
 - I. Recognition of trees as a county asset.
 - J. Recognition of the role that trees plays in the safety of our community.
 - K. Species diversity.
 - L. Public education on the importance of trees.
 - M. Equal distribution of street trees throughout our community.
 - N. Ensure that all low-income communities have equal access of trees as higher-income communities.
 - O. Balance of plans-safety, economics, recreation and aesthetics.
 - P. Our vision looks at the balance between safety and maximize canopy.
 - Q. We ensure that the right tree is planted in the right place.
 - R. We allow that non-native, no-invasive trees that best meet the chosen location are approved over native trees that would not thrive in this situation.
 - S. Our vision is that our county's trees will be well-maintained, cared for and valued for their invaluable role that they play as an asset to our community.
5. Laura Miller's report on inventory of county trees
Notes on the current status of street trees as of Feb. 1, 2013: use of itree software.
 6. Brent Linkletter on 2013 budget of \$2,628,447/
450,000 street trees
227,000 streets have been inventoried
12,000 inspections are done each year-6,000 calls for inspections come from block pruning and 6,000 inspections come from requests from 311
Current budget-\$2.63 million Salaries and Motor Pool-\$440,054 (This includes the salary and benefits for three DOT employees.)
Consultants-\$224,343, Contractors-\$5.63, \$4.3 million-contract for tree removal and pruning. \$1.35 million-consultants (3 arborists, 3 inspectors and 1 administrative assistant, along with 2 temporary county employees), Backlog as of Feb. 1, 2013: 250 inspections, 2,777- requests trees that need to be planted, 10,552-stumps that need to be removed, 1,030-trees that need to be remove, 991 trees that need to be pruned, Stump removal grinding funds have been zeroed out since the 2008 budget. Planted 760 trees last year, 20,000 planting sites available, 10,000 stumps need to be removed and trees planted.